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FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2001 LB 10, 15, 31, 71, 96, 177, 191, 191A, 213
243, 254, 286, 483, 505, 574, 574A

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...says if you're going to be...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: (Visitors introduced.) While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LB 10, LB 15, LB 71, LB 96, LB 177, LB 191, LB 191A, LB 213, LB 254, LB 286, LB 483, LB 505, LB 574, LB 574A, and LB 31. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, the discussion is helpful to me. Keep in mind, I am not a real knowledgeable person when it comes to what a living wage is in the state of Nebraska. I can tell you my colleague, Pat Engel, tells me that \$8.00 an hour with benefits equates to about \$16,000 a year; \$9.00 a year (sic) without benefits equates to about \$18,000 a year. That's not a high wage. I think if they're going to take advantage of a different rate for their electricity, they should be at least able to pay that type of a wage for their full-time employees. So it sounds reasonable to me. I will be voting yes on Senator Beutler's amendment, unless somebody else sheds some light on the subject that would change my mind. But I'm comfortable with it, and I do appreciate Senator Beutler changing that to full-time employee. It certainly increases my comfort level. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I...my biggest concern about this is the process, that here we are on Final Reading, and to take a bill back that had a public hearing, we've debated twice, and now at this stage of debate to pull it back and to do that. We also...we have a bill addressing minimum wage. We have a bill addressing living wage that are...I guess one has come out of Labor Committee, Business and Labor Committee; one has not. But I think it's incorrect at this point in time. I frankly don't know what the effect of this will be. Now, in the Quality Jobs Act, that wage of 120 percent was in the bill right from the beginning. So we had...the Revenue Committee has had an opportunity to examine that and to see how that affects that particular issue and affects the whole state of Nebraska. But to do this on this bill at this time on a final reading I think is improper. If